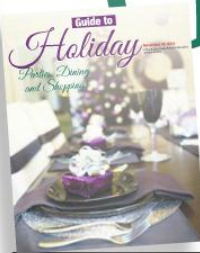


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Commercial bank to open in G.N.

BY JOE NIKIC

Metropolitan Commercial Bank, a full-service commercial bank headquartered in New York City, is scheduled to open its first Long Island location next month at 111 Great Neck Road in Great Neck.

"We are targeting to open the beginning of December. We are finalizing the final stages of construction," Metropolitan Commercial Senior Vice President and Head of Retail Banking Laura Capra said. "The original target was to open Fall 2015. But we will be opened before the end of the year."

With three Manhattan locations and one Brooklyn location, Capra said opening a bank in Great Neck would help Metropolitan Commercial keep close ties with their clientele.

"We have a lot of clients of the bank that actually live in the Great Neck area, so we felt it was an opportunity for us to extend our relationship with these clients to set up a center in Great Neck," she said. "A lot of them work in Manhattan and live in the area and it's a good opportunity for us to build these relationships. It



Metropolitan Commercial Bank's new Great Neck location at 111 Great Neck Road

makes perfect sense for us."

Established in 1999, Metropolitan Commercial has \$910 million in total assets and more than 1 million ATM's available to clients at no cost, according to its website.

On top of their banking services, Capra said the bank wanted to utilize their large space for other local businesses in the community.

"We've always been a community focused organization and

coming out to Great Neck we look to continue with that focus," Capra said. "Our space is over 5000 square feet, which is pretty large for a banking center. Our plans are to open up the center to local organizations for meeting

working events in the front of our lobby."

In celebration of its opening, Metropolitan Commercial announced last Friday they will hold a toy drive at the new Great Neck location where they will accept unopened children's toys and gifts that they will be donating to the Ronald McDonald House of Long Island.

Capra said the bank would have employees at the bank from Nov. 30 to Dec. 23 to collect the donated items.

She added that Metropolitan Commercial would match up to \$10,000 in cash donations to purchase additional gifts.

While the bank is interested in expanding on Long Island, Capra said the focus right now is with the Great Neck location.

"We are always open to additional opportunities for expansion," she said. "But our focus right now is to open in Great Neck."

Metropolitan Commercial Bank seeks to create a more efficient model for commercial banking by combining new technologies with traditional banking business practices, according to its website.